

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

ACDA-05 IO-10 ERDA-05 ( ISO ) W

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R 172030Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 341

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT NZ

SUBJ: NEW ZEALAND ELECTIONS

REF: WELLINGTON 3015

1. SUMMARY. MAJOR ELECTION NEWS DURING WEEK WAS PUBLICATION OF SEPTEMBER POLL WHICH GIVES NATIONAL 52-39 PERCENT LEAD OVER LABOUR. POLL INDICATES ECONOMIC ISSUES REMAIN OVERRIDING CONCERN OF PUBLIC. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, OPPOSITION LEADER MULDOON EXPRESSED A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE FOLLOWING SPEECH TO 6,000 IN AUCKLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. QUARTERLY "NEW ZEALAND HERALD" POLL PUBLISHED DURING WEEK GAVE NATIONAL PARTY 52-39 PERCENT LEAD OVER LABOUR -- AN INCREASE OF TWO PERCENT OVER JULY POLL. EIGHTEEN PERCENT WERE UNDECIDED. SHOWING FOR LABOUR IS LOWEST IN SIX YEARS. WITHOUT TRYING TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS, "HERALD" MAKES POINT THAT IN 1969 AND 1972 ELECTIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES AT THAT TIME DID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETTER IN ELECTIONS THAN SEPTEMBER POLLS INDICATED.

3. WHILE HIS PARTY WAS INCREASING ITS POPULARITY, OPPOSITION LEADER MULDOON SAW HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT AS MOST IMPRESSIVE OPPOSITION POLITICIAN DROP FROM 45 59 40 PERCENT. AT SAME TIME, ROWLING'S POPULARITY ROSE FROM 36 TO 42 PERCENT. RESULTS OF POLL TAKEN FOR "TV ONE" SHOW SIMILAR DICHOTOMY WITH NATIONAL PARTY THOUGHT BEST ABLE TO GOVERN COUNTRY WHILE ROWLING OUT-POLLS MULDOON AS PREFERRED INDIVIDUAL TO BE PRIME MINISTER.

4. THE ECONOMY, INFLATION AND OVERSEAS TRADE WERE NAMED AS MAJOR CONCERNS BY 69 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED. WHILE KEEPING WITH LONG-TERM FINDINGS OF QUARTERLY POLL, THIS REPRESENTS A CONSIDERABLE CHANGE FROM JULY FIGURES WHEN THESE ISSUES EXERCISED LESS THAN HALF OF THE SAMPLE. NUCLEAR TESTING WAS A CONCERN OF 0.1 PERCENT OF 2,000 NEW ZEALANDERS QUESTIONED BY POLLSTERS.interestingly, DEFENSE, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, NUCLEAR FREE ZONE AND NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS ARE NOT REPORTED AT ALL AS PUBLIC CONCERNS.

5. WEEK SAW NATIONAL PARTY ISSUE RATHER VAGUE POLICY STATEMENTS ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION. THESE WERE RECEIVED WITH NO APPARENT ENTHUSIASM. CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SKEPTICISM GREETED LABOUR'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF PENSION PLAN PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ENSURE RETIREES AN INCOME EQUAL TO 90 PERCENT OF AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE. VALUES PARTY ISSUED ITS MANIFESTO OCTOBER 14. EMPHASIS IS ON ZERO POPULATION GROWTH AND NEED TO REVISE PRIORITIES AWAY FROM CONSUMPTION-ORIENTED ECONOMY.

6. AMBASSADOR TALKED WITH ROB MULDOON DURING RECEPTION FOR VISITING MALAYSIAN PM RAZAK. MULDOON EXUDED CONFIDENCE, SAYING HIS OCTOBER 11 SPEECH IN AUCKLAND DREW LARGEST CROWD (6,000) IN HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND POLITICS.  
SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** 75 WELLINGTON 3015  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW ZEALAND ELECTIONS  
**TAGS:** PINT, NZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006